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East Germany

COUNTRY _____ REPORT NO. _____

TOPIC Military Information from Bernau

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EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____ 25X1

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 7 December 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 14 November 1953, the former German Army Clothing Depot I in Bernau quartered an estimated 2,000 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets most of them with artillery insignia. Between 3 and 14 November, NCOs and EM who wore suitcases were almost daily seen leaving the installation toward the railroad station. Numerous recruits were observed in the billeting area, but no training activity took place. The gun shed still housed 22 artillery pieces and at least 22 prime movers, while about 200 vehicles including trucks and tank trucks were parked in four garages. Soldiers were seen cleaning three artillery pieces of 100- to 120-mm caliber in the billeting area.

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2. On 14 November, the former SS homing pigeon station occupied 400 to 500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Soldiers were seen cleaning 6 x76-mm AA guns. On 7 November, 120 to 160 men were observed marching in the yard of the installation.

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3. On 14 November, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne quartered 2,500 to 3,000 men, who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. Some of the soldiers seen wore black-bordered black epaulets. Between 3 and 14 November, several 57-mm AT guns and 2 T-34/85 tanks. There were numerous recruits in the billeting area. Close order drill was seldom noticed.

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4. About 6 p.m. on 12 November, a conference was apparently held in Karl Marx Strasse, a restricted area. Arriving motor vehicles first proceeded to the komandatura and from there to the restricted area. Most of these vehicles were occupied by officers.

5. On 11 November, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne quartered about 1,200 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets some of them with tank and artillery insignia. On 2 November, about 100 recruits with red-bordered black epaulets arriving at the barracks installation from the direction of the Bernau freight station. On 5 November, 8 T-34 tanks model SU-85 SP gun about 20 trucks were detained at the Bernau freight station. The vehicles subsequently drove to the Luftnachrichten Kaserne. On 9 November, about 40 men were being trained on 8 x 82-mm mortars near the target range. On 10 November, 200 recruits march from the freight station to the barracks installation. On 11 November, about 100 recruits were engaged in close order drill in the billeting area. 30 x 57-mm AT guns and 6 x 120-mm mortars in the billeting area additional tanks were unloaded in Bernau and then taken to the Luftnachrichten Kaserne during the reported period.

6. On 14 November, the restricted area on Karl Marx Strasse quartered 60 to 80 men with red-bordered black epaulets. No training activity was observed. On 9 November, trucks each occupied by 25 to 30 officers stopped near the entrance to the billeting area which was entered by the officers involved.

7. On 11 November, the former German Army Clothing Depot I quartered about 1,200 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets some of them with artillery insignia. in the billeting area, 30 x 57-mm and 76-mm AT guns and 8 other AT guns which had a caliber of 100-mm. On 30 October and 11 November, about 30 men being trained on 2 to 4 x 57-mm AT guns. a total of 150 to 200 trucks in the billeting area. No motor vehicle traffic was observed.

8. On 11 November, the former SS homing pigeon station quartered about 300 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets some of them with artillery insignia. On 6 November, an emplacement of 4 x 37-mm AA guns in the northeastern portion of the installation, while 2 other 37-mm AA guns were emplaced in the southwestern portion of the installation between a temporary building and the fence. A third AA gun emplacement was under construction. Guns observed there were covered with tarpaulins. On 10 November, 3 trucks each of them occupied by 30 to 35 recruits arrived at the installation from the Bernau freight station.

9. Between 30 October and 11 November, 6 to 8 officers, NCOs and EM march daily from the installation to Bernau railroad station. Almost all of the soldiers wore suitcases.

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Comment. The present report confirms the elements of the 6th Gds Mecz Div in the Luftnachrichten Kaserne and the homing pigeon station and the 71st Light Arty Brig (US) at the former German Army Clothing Depot I until mid-November 1953. [redacted] paragraphs 5 through 9 underrates the strength of the personnel quartered in the installations mentioned. On 5 November, tanks and motor vehicles of the 34th Tank Tng Bn of the 6th Gds Mecz Div were unloaded. The present report indicates that personnel was being rotated in Bernau during the period under review.

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